

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 07086 301446Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 PRS-01 /021 W

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R 301135Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8966

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 7086

FOLNG SENT CALCUTTA DTD 29 MAY.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, PFOR, IN

SUBJ: HARCOS/FLETCHER

REF: A. CALCUTTA 1183 B. CALCUTTA 1184

1. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO O'NEILL'S URGING HARCOS AND FLETCHER TO AT LEAST DELAY THEIR HUNGER STRIKE SOMEWHAT.

2. WE CONTINUE, HOWEVER, TO URGE YOU TO PUT YOUR MINDS TO WORK ON WHY THE PROSECUTION IS ABLE TO APPARENTLY DEFY THE CHIEF MINISTER AND CHIEF SECRETARY. WE REALIZE YOU HAVE WONDERED FOR THE LAST YEAR AND MORE WHAT DARK POWER THE INVESTIGATING OFFICER , ALAK GHOSE, HAS BEEN ABLE TO EXERCISE IN THIS CASE. BUT IT HAS GONE BEYOND THAT TO THE POINT WHERE WE HAVE THE SENIOR POLITICAL AND SENIOR ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS OF WEST BENGAL APPARENTLY UNABLE TO MOVE DESPITE SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT FROM DELHI. COULD PETER BURLEIGH TALK TO BASKAR GHOSE IN THE CM'S OFFICE ABOUT THE PROBLEM? IF THE FORCES AT WORK ARE AS POWERFUL AS THEY SEEM, THERE MUST BE SOME VIBRATIONS AMONG SOME POLITICIANS. WE DO NOT WANT YOU TO GO OUT AND SCOUR THE CORNERS BUT WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER YOU HAVE BROACHED OUR PUZZLEMENT TO SOME OF YOUR MORE SUBTLE AND WELL CONNECTED FRIENDS WHO MIGHT BE WILLING TO TALK ON THE SUBJECT.

3. WE ARE STILL GOING THE ASSUMPTION THAT LEGALLY, THE CHIEF MINISTER AND CHIEF SECRETARY DO HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO DIRECT
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 07086 301446Z

THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR AND ADVOCATE GENERAL TO FOLLOW A PARTICULAR

COURSE. IS THAT CORRECT?

4. WE ARE NOT CERTAIN THAT WE ARE ACQUAINTED WITH JANUARY PRESS
REPORT FOR WHICH PICKERING IS NOW BEING HELD RESPONSIBLE
AND PUBLISHED PICKERING DENIAL. PLEASE ADVISE IF YOU HAVE ALREADY
REPORTED THESE TO US OR TRANSMIT THE TEXTS TO US IF NOT.

5. WE ARE HOLDING YOUR 1174 AND NOT REPEATING TO THE
DEPARTMENT UNTIL WE HEAR FROM YOU FURTHER.
SCHNEIDER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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